

## From California.

I think my last was written on the camp ground, but I fail to remember the date and will only say the meeting closed on Monday morning the 20th of September, with the sadness common to such parting scenes. Many were the farewells with feelings that in this life we shall never meet again. The general feeling as far as we are able to judge was that the Camp meeting of 1886, was a success. Three were added by baptism, and we all felt that our spiritual strength was renewed. After a few days rest we were furnished by our generous Bro. John P. Wolf, with a two horse team and Bro. E. B. Beeghly, as driver with his wife sister Belle, and boy "Willie" as traveling companions, we started for "Point of Timber," 30 miles west of Lathrop, where we held three meetings. Were hospitably entertained by sister Card and friend Netherton. Here, for the first time, we ate all the almonds we wanted. Sister Netherton and her husband have an abundant crop of this fruit, as well as figs, peaches, grapes, etc. The almond grows very much like the peach in the east. We secured a few with the hull on to take home. They are very much in appearance like a small peach, a little sunburned.

On Friday the 24th we visited the famous Byron Mineral Springs, where all manner of impotent folks seek a cure. We did not go for the purpose, fortune having found us with good health. Bro. Beeghly, however did taste the different waters; hot, cold, sulphur, both white and black, "appetizer," "catarrh," etc., and we are happy to say, that the muscular power of his face was not exhausted, a but his physiognomy, has returned to its normal condition, and he is able to drive on.

On Saturday morning we started for Altamont about 15 miles south, (Altamont is among the foot hills of the coast range,) where our indefatigable brother and sister Perret live; also Bro. and sister Shank, sister Cockerton and others. These brethren are all very zealous, but sister Perret is exceptionally so, throwing all her German might into the work. It was at their house that Bro. Beer had a successful revival meeting in May last. We held three meetings at the school house in Altamont, and on Monday morning the 27th we left them, all feeling sad. Sister Perret standing "*mit dem Schnugduch in der hand.*" Bro. and sister Ebe, having met us there, also brother and sister Beer. The latter we left and in company with Ebe's we came to their house, 26 miles, and a dusty drive we had. Sister Belle was sick with soar throat. This forenoon we are resting at the house of the man who did not serve on the standing committee in 1882 at Arnold's Grove, Ind. Had meeting at the school house last night. Hope our sister Belle, will be able to travel this afternoon.

P. J. BROWN.

## Roseburg, Oregon.

The organization of the Brethren church was partly effected Aug. the 15th, 1886, at Myrtle Point, Oregon. The brethren engaged a hall for that purpose. We organize publically and there was quiet a number of spectators present. We organized with seven members, two ministers and one deacon, three sisters and four brethren. We continued the meeting until Wednesday night. Had a very pleasant meeting, good order and much sympathy from the people; the community is with us, and I know and believe that all with few exceptions bid us God speed. But we were made to feel sad when our meeting closed, because we left sooner then we should, but our time was up. Bro. Pullen and I started east of the range he to his home in Williams Creek, and I to my buisness here on the Umpqua river.

At our last meeting two from the G. B's. and one for baptism came out, and others were almost persuaded. In sympathy and belief many of the G. B's. are with us, and at no distant day we will have a large church at Myrtle Point. Some want to wait and see whether the organization has come to stay. A few years ago there was an organization of Brethren effected there, but in a short time afterwards it was disorganized. Some went back to the old church, and some stand out side of any organization. This seemed much trouble in

the minds of the faithful few, but thank God, the prayer, the sighs and tears have went up to God. An aged brother said to me, "I have prayed for things to work just as they have transpired." That good brother, to-day can realize his prayer, and be happy in his expectations.

I expect to go over to Myrtle Point, in about ten days, or as soon as possible. I want to remind the churches everywhere of their duty: remember the title vine, planted by our Fathers here at Myrtle Point, for there is much people there for the Lord. Bro. Pullen writes to me that he does not know when he can move over there. He has a family that must live, and other buisness that must be attended to. Oh when will God's ministers be free to go and be able to stay where starving souls are perishing. Yours in Christ.

S. C. BASHOR.

Sep. 26.

## Westmoreland County Items.

On Monday morning September 13th I started for Berlin to attend the Sunday school convention. Through the kindness of brother Wm. H. Miller our Sunday school superintendent at this place I was helped on my way a distance of twelve or fifteen miles. I arrived at Berlin in the evening. On Tuesday morning we started for the convention. Attended while the convention lasted, which I think was the best I ever attended. And here allow me to say that I felt very much at home during my stay at Berlin. In fact there was every thing there out side of my own family to make me feel at home. I was permitted to meet many of my brethren and sisters from Cambria county, our old home. I stayed with brother W. H. Menges and his kind family.

On Thursday morning brother Wm. N. Trent took me to his pleasant nome. Next morning brother George Trent took me in the same carriage with his family and others and we started for Somerset. This being the day for the Soldiers' reunion, great crowds of people were in attendance. I remained a short time, but fully long enough to find out the difference between the Sunday school convention at Berlin, and the reunion. I left Somerset about twelve or one o'clock and arrived home about six. Found my family all well, but was sorry to learn of the death and burial of two of our near neighbors, sister Colp, of the Methodist church and a little son of brother Joseph and sister Berger. Thanks to all for kindness.

STEPHEN HILDEBRAND.

Jones Mills, Pa.

## Indian Creek, Ind.

Our communion day, though numbered with other days in the book of time, will be one set apart in the hearts and memories of the brethren, who met at our church to celebrate God's love and compassion. How can we, in the light of such condensation be so unforgiving and in judging those who weaker by nature than we, fail in their duty to us; we, who are always doing and saying, what we would not, and leaving unsaid, and undone, a thousand things that tend to the upbuilding of the cause and kingdom. What would we be, any of us, either in the world, or out of it, without the upholding hand of God, even as mortal men and woman; as Christians, what, without His sustaining grace?

If there is one palace, where all our weakness stares us in the face it is at His holy table, and and but for faith, holding firm the promises, the assurance of the open door of God's great love, and Christ, the Son's redemption, how could we dare to eat, without sin?

We are looking forward to a time of rejoicing with the Church at Milford, expecting to meet with them at the dedication of their new Church. Hoping to meet many who are Brethren in the faith though strangers in the flesh.

MRS. E. M. SIGERFOOSE.

## No Annual Meeting.

DEAR BROTHER EDITOR: I am so glad that the Brethren have at last concluded to have no conference, at least for one year; for in my humble opinion that is just what it will be in the end. Then I am so glad that it will not be necessary for me to

hitch up Minnie to my old chariot, Ethiopian Eunuch-like, and take a trip once a year to Jerusalem to learn what my duty to my Lord and Master is. Brethren I get neryous when I think over these convention matters, for it is not yet 40 months since the cry was, the Bible, the whole Bible and nothing but the Bible. Now it is convention, convention and nothing but convention. There are a class of people here who now say we knew it would go so; you Bible alone folks formerly said we are governed by the commandments of men, and in a few years more you will be in the same predicament.

And now brother editor as I know that your sentiments are in favor of a convention you will hardly feel like publishing this letter, but I wish you would. Solomon says let us have the conclusion of the whole matter. Fear God and keep his commandments for this is the whole duty of man. God bless every body, for what more do we need, what more can we reasonably ask for. I think if we live up close to Solomon's advice we would at once say, go away with your annual meeting.

N. A. FRAME.

Elkhart, Ind.

## Close Communion.

Communion is an ordinance inside of the church. Jesus Christ did not invite those religious sects that lived at that time to commune with him and his disciples, because they were not gospelly prepared to do so. It is a nice thing to be liberal, but to be more liberal than God's word justifies is wrong. The material must first be gospelly prepared for the fellowship of God's House, and we are to enter in by the door, for if we do not we are a thief, and a robber. Jesus Christ has made his salvation, and fellowship conditional, and those conditions are faith, repentance, and baptism. We ask if there is any that would like to commune with those who had no faith, or with those that had never repented of their sins, or with those who had never been baptized?

We are commanded to examine ourselves and see if our faith is a gospel faith and if we are will-to be guided by the Word of God, or the commandments of men. Also in that examination, let us take God's Word and see if our repentance is a gospel repentance and not here say, and above all, let us see if we have been gospelly baptized into the name of the blessed Trinity. If we have, then we can say that we have been buried with him in the likeness of his death; but in our baptism, if we have not been buried, we have not been baptized: and no unbaptized person has any gospel right to be at the communion table of our dear Lord. If we say to those who were baptized in the name of the spirit, or to those who were not buried in baptism to come and commune with us, then we acknowledge their baptism and practice, to be equal with the gospel practice and baptism.

We acknowledge that it is wrong to be selfish, and we do not wish to be so, but we can not commune with the unbaptized, nor with those that trample the commands of Jesus Christ under their feet. They sneer at our full obedience to Christ's commands. Shall we earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered to the saints? Yes. The time has come that God wants a few faithful men to stand for the defense of his eternal truth.

Yes, let us, by all means, have a convention, and there and then let that convention reaffirm that the gospel of our blessed Lord is our only book of faith and practice, and if the United Brethren, wish to unite with us, let that union be a gospel union, that God's great name may be glorified in the union of the saints upon the gospel alone.

M. D. WATSON.

Fort Scott, Kan.

## "Unto The Perfect Day."

How beautiful our lives would soon grow if we carried always with us, and put into practice, the lessons we have learned by experience! We look back at the end of the year and see many things that cause bitter regret, but instead of leaving them behind we go on repeating the same follies and errors in the new year. A little heroic decision would enable us to rise every day on the mistake of yesterday.—S. S. Times.